Sale of fake stamp papers

† * 39. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trade of selling fake stamp papers is on the rise in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which have come to light during the last three months;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps so far to check it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b)The Central Govt, is not directly cocnemed with the distribution and marketing of stamp papers and accordingly does not maintain data relating to selling and detection of fake stamp papers which are the responsibility of respective State Governments/Union Territories.

(c) and (d) The stamp papers are produced and supplied to the States, as per their requirements, by the India Security Press (ISP), Nashik and the Security Printing Press (SPP) Hyderabad. These stamp papers duly in corporate overt security features such as the floating Ashoka Pillar watermarks, the Ashoka Chakra, and the security thread in higher denomination stamp papers to prevent any counterfeiting. These security features are reviewed by the Govt, from time to time to secure them from counterfeiting. Further a Working Group of exports has been constituted to review the existing specifications of non-judicial stamp papers and suggest measures to check forgery in these papers.

Small Savings

† * 40. PROF. M.M.AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discouraged the capital formation by reducing the interest rate on small savings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of the general public and encourage the small savings?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.